

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: February 24, 2004

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES OLF STUDY GROUP MEMBERS

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced the membership of an outlying landing field (OLF) study group. The group will travel to Washington County on Friday to witness a FA-18 fly over that the U.S. Navy is conducting.

“I have pulled together a group that can look at the strategic, economic and environmental aspects of the OLF in North Carolina,” Easley said. “I am expecting these people to make an objective and educated analysis regarding the OLF.”

The study group is charged with reviewing all aspects of the OLF and making a recommendation within 60 days regarding the overall impact of a site. **Sid Eagles**, recently retired chief judge for the N.C. Court of Appeals, will chair the group.

Other members include: **Sen. Scott Thomas**; **Rep. Bill Culpepper**; Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary **Bryan Beatty**; Environment and Natural Resources Secretary **Bill Ross**; **Troy Pate**, co-chair of the N.C. Advisory Commission on Military Affairs; **Jane Preyer**, regional director, N.C. Environmental Defense; **Doug Parsons**, member of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and Ducks Unlimited; **John Pechmann**, chair of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission; **Marion Deerhake**, member of the N.C. Environmental Management Commission and an environmental scientist; **Chris Coudriet**, county manager for Washington County; **Wesley Stokes**, chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners; **John Crumpler** and **Roger Crowe**, members of the N.C. Economic Development Board, and from the U.S. Navy, Rear Admiral **Stephen A. Turcotte**, Rear Admiral **Richard E. Cellon** and **Dan Cecchini**, head NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) engineer.

The creation of this study group comes after the culmination of a series of meetings between Gov. Easley and Navy officials. Yesterday, at a meeting at the Pentagon, Easley and the Navy agreed to work together to ensure the best possible outcome for local communities, the state and the country.

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